

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, 1876, with transcript

Letter from Miss Mabel G. Hubbard to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. New York, Thursday. (1876?) My dear Alec:

Your note of this morning covered me with confusion. Where did you find that foolish scrap of mine. I don't remember writing that one on Christmas day, though I may have tried my new pen on it. But I thought every such effusion was consigned to the fire. I am so ashamed you found it, but glad that no one else did. For mercy's sake — destroy it!

Papa arrived this morning, I hope he telegraphed you as he promised.

That withdrawal of the W.U. and Mr. Edison is a gain is it not. I hope things will go favorably forward. I am so thankful Mamma will be in Washington. What you and Papa would do without her love and clear-sightedness I don't know. You have no idea how much she has helped you with Papa. I am afraid you would have never got along together but for her, helping you with her knowledge of you both. Her judgement is so good. I have sometimes seen her letters to Papa last winter, and been surprised by the clearness in which she has seen both your strength and weakness, and shown Papa how to deal with you. I think you have to thank my Mother for everything. And I know you love her as she loves you, and will be as kind to her as possible. She goes to Washington tired out with two days hard work packing and shopping, and will be glad of all the help and sunshine you can give her. She says you are so bright and sunshiny, you brighten things to her. Be sure you look as nice as possible, she is very sensitive to such things. 2 When are you coming back, I want you to stay with Mamma and yet am anxious to see you again.

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Mamma told me to write you a nice letter, I am afraid this is not, I am sorry but am tired, and this hot room makes me feel what you call "headachy." Goodbye, I send a great deal of love anyway.

Ever your, May.